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(54) Title: VACUUM PUMPING ARRANGEMENT

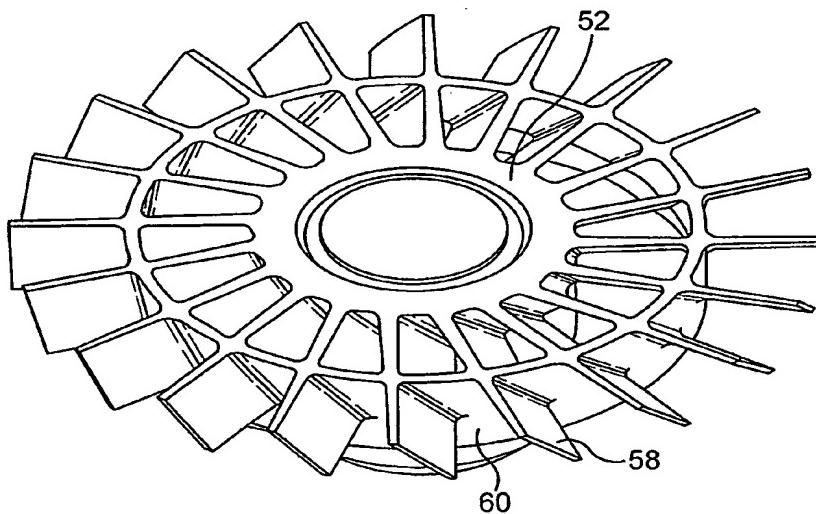
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WO 2004/055375 A1

(57) **Abstract:** A vacuum pumping arrangement comprises a turbomolecular pumping mechanism and a molecular drag pumping mechanism connected in series. A rotor of the molecular drag pumping mechanism is supported by the rotor blades of the turbomolecular pumping mechanism.